AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 has been corrected to include reference number 100.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are all the claims currently examined in the application. Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Neyens et al. (US 5,517,034, hereafter "Neyens"). Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura (US 4,780,376, hereafter "Nakamura") in view of Neyens. Claim 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Neyens and further in view of Research Disclosure 308117 (Read-out of photostimulable latent fluorescent images, December 1989, 3 pages, hereafter "The Disclosure").

By this Amendment, Applicant is amending claims 1-5. Claims 6-10 have been added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, as well as verify receipt of the certified copy of the priority documents.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for considering and initialing the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 18, 2003.

Drawing Objection

The drawings stand objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign mentioned in the description: 100.

Applicant has amended FIG. 1 to include the missing designation. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

§102(b) Rejection

1. Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Neyens et al. (US 5,517,034, hereafter "Neyens"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1 recites a radiation image read-out apparatus wherein the stimulating light projecting means which projects, onto the radiation image converter panel, stimulating light in a wavelength range where the rate of change of the intensity of the stimulated emission to a given change of the wavelength of the stimulating light is not larger than 1.0%/nm and is not smaller than -1.0%/nm. The Examiner argues that Neyens teaches this aspect of the present invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Neyens discloses a radiation image recording and reproducing method. The Examiner cites to col. 1, lines 46-60, and col. 2, lines 51-57 as teaching all of the limitations of claim 1. Neyens, however, fails to teach the limitation of projecting stimulating light in a wavelength range where the rate of change of the intensity of the stimulated emission to a given change of the wavelength of the stimulating light in not larger than 1.0%/nm and is not smaller than -1.0%/nm. The Examiner asserts that at the optimal wavelength for photostimulation in Neyens is a peak or maximum of the stimulated spectrum. At this peak, the inclination of a tangent line would be zero, and thus, according to the Examiner, Neyens discloses the rate of change of the intensity is not larger than 1.0%/nm or smaller than -1.0%/nm. Neyens, however, teaches how to change the optimal wavelength for photostimulation by adjusting the composition of a stimulable phosphor member. FIG. 1 of Neyens shows a stimulation spectra of a phosphor of a particular composition, and how it differs from a stimulation spectra for each of the components alone. These graphs, and the specification, fail to associate the rate of change of intensity of the stimulated emission to a given change of the wavelength of the stimulating light and wherein the changes of emission intensity is between 1.0 and -1.0%/nm. Neyens does not disclose all of the elements of claim 1, and thus does not anticipate claim 1.

Moreover, contrary to the Examiner's contention, Neyens recognizes that a maximum emission is not isolated at a sole wavelength value as such is not realistic. Thus, Neyens recognizes a range of wavelengths producing desirable emissions. Col. 4, lines 20-30. These ranges include 520-550 nm and 570-630 nm. It is not possible to ascertain from Neyens that the percentage fluctuation over such large ranges can be set within the limits as described in claim 1. the resultant stimulation results also suggest that operation at a particular maximum is not possible. Col. 14, lines 9-16. The ranges of operation that are suggested by Neyens does not inherently meet the percentage variation over a change in wavelength as claimed. Claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 2 should be patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1.

§103(a) Rejections

2. *Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura (US 4,780,376, hereafter "Nakamura") in view of Neyens.* Applicant respectfully traverses.

The Examiner argues that the combination of Nakamura and Neyens teach all of the limitations of claim 1, and that the combining the references would be obvious to one skilled in the art. The Examiner acknowledges that Nakamura fails to teach an explicit description that the stimulating light projecting means projects, onto the radiation image converter panel, stimulating light in a wavelength range where the rate of change of the intensity of the stimulated emission to a given change of the wavelength of the stimulating light is not larger than 1.0%/nm and is not smaller than -1.0%/nm. The Examiner argues that the Neyens teaches this aspect of claim 1. However, as argued above, Neyens also fails to teach the aspects of claim 1 that Nakamura fails

to teach. The cited references do not teach all aspects of the claim invention, and therefore cannot render the invention obvious. Claim 1 should be patentable.

Claims 2, 4, and 5 should be patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

3. Claim 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Neyens and further in view of Research Disclosure 308117 (Read-out of photostimulable latent fluorescent images, December 1989, 3 pages, hereafter "The Disclosure"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 3 is dependent on claim 1. The Disclosure fails to cure the defects regarding claim 1 noted above in Nakamura and Neyens. Claim 3 is thus patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1.

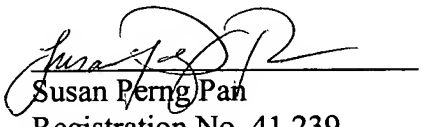
New claims 6-10 are added to describe features of the invention more particularly.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Perng Pan
Registration No. 41,239

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 24, 2006